

Application No. 10/501,431
Amendment dated March 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of 02/09/2006

Atty. Docket No. 02PCTEZ1

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 to the final Office action dated 02/09/2006 in the above-referenced application.

In Section 2 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, stating, "The addition of 'a solid, homogenous, electrically conductive joint', the specification doesn't support a 'homogenous' structure."

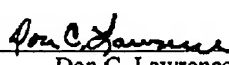
Responsively, in the above amendment, Applicant has cancelled the added language from claim 1.

In Section 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wojnarowski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,674 dated 5/4/1999) in view of Brodsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,938,454 dated 8/17/1999).

In Section 6, the Examiner objected to claims 7-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsively, in the above amendment, Applicant has incorporated the limitations of allowable claim 8 into claim 1, thereby rendering claim 1 allowable, as well as all of the claims dependent from it, has cancelled claim 8, and has rewritten allowable claims 9 and 10 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1, thereby rendering claims 9 and 10 allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-7 and 9-16 are now in allowable form and therefore requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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